

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 5 and 6.

Kindly cancel claims 10-24 without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. (Currently Amended) A fixative composition comprising:
 - (i) -ethanol;
 - (ii) -water;
 - (iii) -1,2-propanediol;
 - (iv) -polyvinyl alcohol; and
 - (v) -an effective amount of at least one monomeric polyhydroxy compound that is a carbohydrate included in a mixture of (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv).
2. (Original) The fixative composition according to claim 1, wherein the monomeric polyhydroxy compound is a carbohydrate comprising at least three carbon atoms.
3. (Original) The fixative composition according to claim 2, wherein the carbohydrate has six carbon atoms.
4. (Previously Amended) The fixative composition according to claim 3, wherein the carbohydrate is a hexitol.
5. (Currently Amended) The fixative composition according to claim 1, wherein the monomeric polyhydroxy compound is contained in an amount of from 0.05 to 2.00 wt.-% based on the weight of the fixative composition.

6. (Currently Amended) The fixative composition according to claim 5, wherein ethanol, water, 1,2-propanediol and polyvinyl alcohol are contained in an amount of from 50 to 85 wt.-%, 10 to 40 wt.-%, 3 to 20 wt.-% and 0.05 to 3.00 wt.-% respectively and wherein all percentages are based on the weight of the fixative composition.

7. (Original) The fixative composition according to claim 6, wherein the ethanol concentration is 65 to 75 wt.-%.

8. (Previously Amended) The fixative composition according to claims 1, further containing additives and/or auxiliary agents.

9. (Original) The fixative composition according to claim 8, wherein the additives and/or auxiliary agents are selected from acceptable salts, alcohols, ketones, carboxylic acids, sugars and polymers.

10 - 24. (Cancelled)